



Director's Corner

Kathryn Porter, M.D., M.S.



Caption: Dr. Porter

Fall is upon us and we look back on a very productive summer. As is usual in DHANES, we have been busy on multiple fronts: planning NHANES 2017-18, evaluating current survey operations, preparing NHANES 13-14 data for release, and writing reports and manuscripts for dissemination. Our first release of NHANES 2013-14 data is scheduled for October 30, 2015, with a number of files to follow in the months thereafter. Several NCHS Data Briefs on topics such as obesity, hypertension, and hepatitis infection among Asians are in the pipeline for November and December web releases.

In addition, as a result of building consensus from experts at NIH's Office of Dietary Supplements and NCEH's

Division of Laboratory Sciences, DHANES will soon release new data on Vitamin D.

As if that is not enough, we are planning exciting new pilot projects for 2016. We anticipate testing procedures for liver elastography which, if successful, can give us information on hepatic fibrosis and steatosis in future NHANES. We are also planning a pilot to get vaccination records from health care providers of young adult and teenage participants to see if we can get adequate cooperation to assess HPV vaccine effectiveness in future NHANES. Lastly, we are developing many innovations, such as getting documentation of consent electronically by having participants sign on a touchscreen.

Warm Welcomes and Fond Farewells

DHANES Personnel Changes

We are pleased to announce the new Chief of the Planning Branch, Mr. David Woodwell, started on September 21, 2015. David comes to us from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration where he served as the Project coordinator of the Ambulatory Care Services Team integrating the content of the Drug Abuse Warning Network into the National Hospital Care Survey. David was previously at NCHS in the Division of Health Care Statistics where he served as Lead Statistician and Team Leader of the Ambulatory Care Team overseeing all operational aspects of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. David has significant contract oversight experience and has a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Biostatistics.

We are also pleased to welcome a new oral health epidemiologist to the Analysis Branch. Dr. Eleanor Fleming is a USPHS Dental Officer with a Ph.D. in Political Science. She comes to us from the North Carolina Division of Public Health where she was a CDC assigned epidemiologist. She started her career at CDC in 2011 as an EIS Officer assigned to NCHHSTP.

Also we are pleased to welcome Dr. Asher Rosinger who joined the Division as a first year EIS Officer. He just finished his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Georgia where his dissertation research focused on hydration and water-related diseases, immune activation, and body composition among 'Tsimane' forager-horticulturalists in the Bolivian Amazon.



Other new staff include Robert Blaney, a Presidential Management Fellow, Rose Lazaneo, a student trainee, and Irene Atta, a new contractor on our statistical team.

We are sad to say goodbye to four staff members. Brenda Lewis, well known to many as the anchor of the NHANES laboratory component, is retiring on October 31, 2015. We are extremely grateful for her dedication to many cycles of NHANES and wish her well in the next phase of her life. Sarah Yoon has accepted a position at NIH's Center for Scientific Review. This is a good opportunity for Sarah, but we will miss her superb skill in

coordinating the NHANES questionnaire and conducting cardiovascular disease research. Dr. Joseph Woodring accepted a job at the World Health Organization (WHO) overseeing Hepatitis B activities in 37 countries based out of his new home base in Manila, Philippines. We will miss Joe's enthusiasm for the NHANES project and his dedication to CDC's public health response activities. Lastly, we learned that Hannah Lawman has accepted a job with the Philadelphia Health Department. We gained a lot from Hannah's expertise in physical activity data, and we thank her for her work in DHANES.

National Conference on Health Statistics DHANES Contributions

The National Center for Health Statistics held its 2015 National Conference on Health Statistics at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in North Bethesda, MD, August 24–26, 2015. The conference included a 1-day Learning Institute consisting of hands-on and lecture formats, followed by the 2-day main conference, which included Scientific Sessions, Exhibits, and a Poster Session. DHANES staff played a critical role in the conference's success.

Samara Nielsen served as our Division representative for the conference, bringing her great enthusiasm to the task. Ana Terry organized our DHANES exhibit booth and the "Meet the experts" booth. Dr. Ryne Paulose coordinated the poster sessions, which allowed researchers from academia, industry, and government agencies to showcase their original research on health, health data, and statistics. Multiple members of the DHANES staff gave presentations and served as volunteers.

NHANES Out And About Ebola Deployments

Several members of the DHANES staff were or are deployed to assist in CDC's ongoing Ebola response efforts.

Kasey Diebold deployed to Sierra Leone from April to July 2015 to provide technical expertise in surveillance and epidemiology to the Sierra Leone Trial to Introduce a Vaccine against Ebola (STRIVE). In her work with STRIVE, Kasey worked with local hospitals and healthcare providers to recruit study participants. She

also assisted with data management and surveillance of suspected Ebola cases in study participants. In May, Kasey was asked to lead the Data Management team. In this capacity, Kasey was responsible for the analysis and dissemination of response data, helped streamline reporting, facilitated relationships with local partners, and developed and oversaw multiple special projects to inform the response. Kasey also represented the CDC at weekly surveillance meetings with the Ministry of

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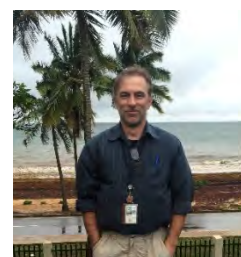


Health and Sanitation and provided weekly epidemiology briefings to Atlanta and the President of the United States (POTUS) dashboard.

Hannah Lawman was deployed to Sierra Leone for the Ebola Response for 6 weeks in June and July of 2015. As a member of the Health Promotion Team and based in Kambia District, Hannah oversaw the implementation and evaluation of an interactive, community-based intervention to reduce fears of ambulances and increase access to early treatment for Ebola. She visited over 30 communities for the intervention, referred to as the Ambulance Project. In addition, Hannah collected community-based qualitative data on the barriers and facilitators of key health behaviors needed to get to a resilient zero and interviewed response program leaders in neighboring districts about successful community engagement strategies.

Tim Tilert was deployed to Freetown, Sierra Leone, from the end of June 2015 to the end of August 2015. As the Data Management Team Lead, he provided technical expertise in surveillance and epidemiology, secured critical response data on EOC servers, designed case reporting databases, developed disease transmission chains, automated numerous reporting programs, and aggregated multiple disparate data sources. One of Tim's primary responsibilities was to produce the weekly Sierra Leone data pack, an up-to-date, comprehensive, presentation of the state of the Ebola response in Sierra Leone.

This data pack was presented to Dr. Frieden and other senior CDC staff every Saturday in the weekly Sierra Leone update.



Caption: Tim Tilert in Sierra Leone

NCHS Director's Awards DHANES Winners

We would like to acknowledge our staff who received NCHS Director's awards on September 10, 2015.

Susan Lukacs – Tapped for Excellence, Citation: For providing scientific leadership and advice to the NHANES Biospecimen Program resulting in improved transparency and access.

Anne Looker – Merit Award, Citation: In recognition of extraordinary contributions in the area of research on musculoskeletal health among older adults.

Tatiana Nwankwo, Yechiam Ostchega, George Zipf – Excellence in Innovation Award for the Blood Pressure Cuff Comparison Study, Citation: For advanced blood pressure measurement methodologic research and for an innovative public/private partnership for conducting the research.

Congratulations!

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Tales from the Field...Did You Know?

NHANES has collected, maintained, and shipped over 137,000 lab samples, resulting in over 9,775,085 results to date (1999–2014).



Mobile Examination Center (MEC)

Caption: NHANES Mobile Examination Center (MEC)

NHANES Publications

NHANES staff have authored/co-authored several publications in 2015. Check them out on our website: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/new_nhanes.htm.